

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date
March 12, 2015

District
Winnemucca

Resource Area
BR-HRC-Emigrant Trails NCA

Activity (program)
Wilderness

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Project Name Fly Canyon Spring Exclosure | 4. Location Township 40 N | 5. Location Sketch |
| 2. Key Observation Point | Range 24 E | |
| 3. VRM Class Class 1 | Section 35 | |

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

| 1. LANDWATER | | 2. VEGETATION | 3. STRUCTURES |
|--------------|--|--|---------------|
| FORM | Flat along canyon bottom with some triangular shapes | Simple form created by patches of desert shrub (sage brush) & grasses. | None |
| LINE | Horizontal and triangular | Moderate to strong in mid-ground and background | None |
| COLOR | Gray-green to light brown | Grey-green to light brown | None |
| TEXTURE | Medium | Medium to coarse | None |

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

| 1. LANDWATER | | 2. VEGETATION | 3. STRUCTURES |
|--------------|--|---|-----------------------------|
| FORM | Flat | Mottled by clearing and some open patches in vegetation | Geometric |
| LINE | Horizontal – fence rails Vertical – fence posts | Horizontal – moderate to coarse | Moderate Geometric |
| COLOR | Medium tan to brown* | Grey-green to brown | Coated metal |
| TEXTURE | Smooth | Medium | Fine with minimal contrasts |

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING D SHORT TERM x LONG TERM

| 1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST | | FEATURES | | | | | | | | | | | | 2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? D Yes X No (Explain on reverse side) | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|--------------------|----------|------|------|----------------|----------|------|------|----------------|----------|------|------|---|--|--|--|
| | | LANDWATER BODY (1) | | | | VEGETATION (2) | | | | STRUCTURES (3) | | | | | | | |
| | | Strong | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong | Moderate | Weak | None | | | | |
| ELEMENTS | Form | | X | | | | | | X | | X | | | 3. Additional mitigating measures recommended? X Yes D No (Explain on reverse side) | | | |
| | Line | | X | | | | | | X | | X | | | | | | |
| | Color | | | X | | | | | X | | | X | | | | | |
| | Texture | | | X | | | | | X | | | X | | | | | |
| Evaluator's Names | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Date | | | |

Comments from item 2.

Project is located along an overgrown two track at the bottom of a wide canyon, within a designated wilderness area with a VRM I classification. This classification does allow for minimal management activity but any level of change should be very low and must not attract attention.

The project as designed will add vertical and horizontal lines into the landscape which, because of the minimal vegetation, will be noticeable to visitors in the area. Vegetation along the bounds of the project site consists of scattered low to medium height sage brush and low (minimal height) grasses which will provide little to no screening to break up the overall shape of the project.

However, there are some extenuating circumstances with this project. The location of the project is approximately 0.5 miles from the boundary of the wilderness. The site itself cannot be seen from the boundary of the wilderness so it will not attract undue attention. It is only when visitors are traversing into the wilderness along the old two track that the project will be seen. Also, this project is for the protection of the *Desert Dace*, a listed threatened and endangered species. Under the Wilderness Act of 1964 and BLM policy, BLM is authorized to conduct such projects (though wilderness-impairing) as necessary for the protection or recovery of T & E species.

Additional Mitigating Measures (See item 3)

Mitigation to lessen the visual impact of the fence consists of the use of earth-tone coloration to blend the structure into the landscape. Current design of the project proposes the use of tan or brown colored paint for the posts and rails. Possible consideration could be given to a sage-green (grey/green) color as a means to blend with the predominate sagebrush at the site.

The design of the structure to use painted metal pipe as opposed to wood posts and rails will lessen the overall profile of the structure at distances because of the smaller diameter of the pipe. But because of the minimal vegetation at the project site, the structure will still be somewhat noticeable for visitors who pass near the area.